advanced studies/ training, personal reasons, better emoluments and employment opportunities to attain specific long term/short term goals in the frontiers of knowledge/tech... Government has always been taking steps to improve the working conditions of the Scientists, and to provide adequate facilities for research.

**Protection from Radiation Hazards Emitted by X-rays Colour TVs, etc.**

466. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that X-rays,colour Televisions, mining operations and even building materials emit radiation and prolonged exposure thereto endangers public health; and

(b) if so, what measures Government are taking to protect the peoples' health from such radiation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE, (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Government is aware that many objects of common man's use such as Colour TVs building materials. X-ray machines emit radiation. Similarly, uranium mining operations also involve exposure to radiation. However, no measureable radiation is emitted by the TV screen. The radiation emitted by building material depends on the material. The amount of radiation inside a dwelling is also dependent upon the ventilation. The measurement carried out in different types of houses show that radiation levels are low and is comparable to similar type of dwellings in other countries. No further protective measures are considered necessary. To protect operators and public from radiation emitted by X-ray machines and workers in the uranium mining operations, constant surveillance of the work area is carried out and the radiation levels are also constantly monitored to ensure strict adherence to the laid down norms.

**Rise in prices of essential commodities**

467. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of rise in prices of essential commodities since April, 1986;

(b) what are the main reasons for this rise in prices; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to maintain the price level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) A Statement indicating variation in the wholesale price indices of selected commodities between the last week of March. 1986 and the week ending 5.7.86 is given below.

(b) The rise in the prices of some essential commodities during the past 14 weeks ending 5th July, 1986 may be mainly attributed to the lean season and shortfall in the production of some commodities.

(c) The main thrust of the Government Policy continues to be to increase the production of essential commodities particularly those which are in short supply. The Public Distribution System is being streamlined and expanded. The allocation of foodgrains, imported edible oils etc. for distribution through the Public Distribution System has been increased in recent months. Some of the essential commodities are imported to supplement the domestic supply. The export of essential commodities is banned/regulated. Action is being taken by the State Governments against blackmarketeers and profiteers under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

**Statement**

*Percentage variation in the whole sale Price Indices of Selected commodities between the last week of March, 1986 and the week ending 5th July, 1986.*

| Commodity | Percentage variation |
|---|---|
| Rice | +6.1 |
| Wheat | —8.1 |
| Jowar | +0.6 |
| Bajra | —8.2 |
| Gram | —19.7 |
| Arhar | +15.2 |
| Moong | —8.2 |
| Massoor | +7.4 |
| Urad | —1.4 |
| Potatoes | +57.3 |
| Onions | —20.3 |
| Milk | +1.4 |
| Fish | +10.4 |
| Meat | +4.7 |
| Chilies | —24.2 |
| Tea | +27.5 |
| Coke | Steady |
| Kerosene | Steady |
| Atta | +.02 |
| Sugar | —2.4 |
| Gur | +23.1 |
| Vanaspati | +7.2 |
| Groundnut Oil | +20.4 |
| Mustard oil | +24.4 |
| Coconut Oil | +14.5 |
| Gingelly Oil | +8.2 |
| Salt | —0.7 |
| Soap | Steady |
| Matches | Steady |
| Cotton Cloth (Mills) | +0.1 |
| All Commodities | +4.4 |